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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

VIRTUAL STUDIOS, INC.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

COURISTAN, INC.

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO:

COMPLAINT

By way of complaint against defendant Couristan, Inc., plaintiff Virtual Studios, Inc. states as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. The First Count of the within complaint is brought under the Federal Copyright Act of 1976, as amended, 17 U.S.C.A. §§101, *et seq.* This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to Section 1338(a) of the Judicial Code (28 U.S.C.A. §1338(a)). The remaining count of the complaint constitutes a related claim as to which the Court has pendant jurisdiction under Section 1338(b) as well as diversity jurisdiction under Section 1332.

VENUE

2. Venue is appropriate under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. 1400(a).

FACTS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

3. Plaintiff, Virtual Studios, Inc., ("Virtual") provides a variety of services and products within the graphic arts industry. Among those services are digital photography scanning, design and illustration, digital offset printing, presentation graphics, image setting, digital color and printers proofs, mounting and laminating. Virtual is a corporation of the State of Tennessee, with its main place of business at 693 Varnell Road, Tunnel Hill, Georgia 30755.
4. Approximately 13 years ago Virtual developed a unique software program enabling it to offer carpet and rug manufacturers digital room scenes created by Virtual on which to display their products in sales, advertising and marketing materials.
5. Virtual's unique proprietary program allowed it to digitally photograph flooring products and manipulate the images of those products into previously developed room scenes, out of many created by Virtual.
6. In approximately 2002 Virtual and defendant Couristan Industries, Inc. ("Couristan") began doing business together. Through the new technology developed by Virtual, Couristan was able to display its rugs and carpeting in room scenes created by Virtual. Couristan is a New York corporation with its main place of business at Two Executive Drive, Fort Lee, New Jersey 07024.
7. Under the terms of the agreement between the parties, Couristan would select certain room scenes and would provide Virtual with samples of its products which would then be photographed and Virtual would digitally manipulate the images of those products onto the images of its room

scenes which could then be used by Couristan for purposes of advertising, sales and marketing and could be placed on various web sites utilized by Couristan.

8. The terms of the agreement between the parties concerning Couristan's use of the images produced by Virtual include, *inter alia*, the "Terms and Conditions" contained on the reverse side of all invoices submitted in a regular course of business by Virtual to Couristan.

9. The subject invoices contained, *inter alia*, the following language:

Virtual Studios will provide its Client with the unlimited use of all photographs for a period of 1 year from the day of completion and payment of services as stated below

* * * * *

Client may not assign or transfer this agreement or any rights granted hereunder...No amendment or waiver of any terms is binding unless set forth in writing and signed by the parties. This agreement incorporates by reference Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code, and the Copyright Act of 1976, as amended.

* * * *

Virtual Studios copyright notice "@ (Your First Publication) *Virtual Studios*" must accompany each editorial use as an adjacent credit line.

* * * *

Virtual Studios reserves the right to pursue unauthorized users of any Virtual Studios room scene image. If you violate our intellectual property you may be liable for actual damages, loss of income, and profits you derived from the use of this image or clip, and, where appropriate, the cost of collection and/or statutory damages up to \$150,000 (U.S.D.) per image.

10. Defendant Couristan was actually aware of the foregoing language in the invoices submitted to it by defendant Virtual at all times relevant hereto and actually assented to the cited terms and conditions.

11. As an additional term of the agreement between the parties respecting the use by Couristan of Virtual's images, Couristan agreed that Virtual had the sole and exclusive right to manipulate the room scene images by imposing thereon various images of rugs and carpeting products manufactured by Couristan.

12. In 2007, Couristan discontinued doing business with Virtual.

13. After Couristan terminated its business with Virtual, the latter discovered that Couristan had continued to use the images, whose use had been limited by the agreement between the parties to one year, for periods exceeding one year.

14. With respect to the images that Couristan used and continues to use beyond the one year limitation of its agreement with Virtual, Couristan failed and refused to compensate Virtual beyond the payment of a one year fee with respect to each image.

15. In addition, Virtual discovered after 2009 that Couristan had, on its own initiative, without the participation of Virtual and without Virtual's consent, undertaken to superimpose images of its own on to the room scene images Virtual had provided Couristan with.

COUNT I

COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

16. Plaintiff repeats and restates each and every allegation of Paragraphs 1 through 15 as though fully set forth herein.

17. In 2007 and 2008, plaintiff Virtual complied in all respects with the United States Copyright Act of 1976 and all other laws governing copyright by applying for copyright registration and making the required deposit for each and every one of the room scene images provided defendant Couristan for its limited use. The United States Copyright Office accordingly issued copyright

certificates for each of the subject room scenes with the latest effective date of the registration certificates of February 14, 2008.

18. At all times defendant Couristan had actual or constructive notice of Virtual's copyright in and to the subject room scene images.

19. The original room scenes provided to defendant Couristan included the following:

1. 10397StairCFull
2. 10458 Home_OfficeC
3. 10458 Home_OfficeC
4. 10458DRE
5. 10458LRC
6. 10458LRC
7. 10458LRC
8. 10458LRC
9. 10458LRC
10. 10458LRC
11. 10508LRC
12. 10508LRC
13. 10508LRC
14. 10508LRC
15. 10458LRE
16. 10458LRE
17. 10458LRE
18. 10458LRE
19. 10458LRE
20. 10461BR45
21. 10461BR45
22. 10461BR45
23. 10461BR45
24. 10461BR45
25. 10461BR45
26. 10461BR45
27. 10461LR24
28. 11622LRA
29. 11622LRA
30. 11622LRA

31. 11622LRA
32. 11622 MiscD
33. 11622 MiscD
34. 11622 MiscD
35. 11622 MiscD
36. 11622 MiscD
37. 11622 MiscD
38. 11622 MiscD
39. 11775Entr6
40. 11842DR2
41. 12631_FR1
42. 12787_FR4
43. 12787_FR4
44. 12787_FR5
45. 12787_FR5
46. 12787_FR5
47. 12787_FR5
48. 12787_FR5
49. 12787_FR5
50. 12787_FR5
51. 12787_LR4
52. 12787Foyer4
53. 12787Foyer4
54. 12787Foyer4
55. 12787FR3
56. 12787FR3
57. 12787LR10
58. 12787LR11
59. 12787LR5
60. 12787LR7
61. 12787Misc2
62. 12787Misc3

- 63. 12787Misc6
- 64. 12787Misc6
- 65. 12787Misc6
- 66. 12787Misc8
- 67. 12891FR4
- 68. 13033MBR2
- 69. 13033MBR2
- 70. 13364Stair1
- 71. 13364Stair1
- 72. 13364Stair3
- 73. 13364Stair3
- 74. 13364Stair3
- 75. 13364Stair3
- 76. 13364Stair3
- 77. 13413_Misc2
- 78. 13413_Misc2
- 79. 13413Staircase1
- 80. 13459_SC1
- 81. 13459_SC1
- 82. 13459Staircase2
- 83. 13692BR1D
- 84. 13692BR1D
- 85. 13692DR2
- 86. 13692Foyer2
- 87. 13692FR1D
- 88. 13692LR2
- 89. 13692LR2
- 90. 13692LR2
- 91. 13692LR2
- 92. 13692LR2
- 93. 13692LR2
- 94. 13692LR2
- 95. 13692LR2

- 96. 13692LR2
- 97. 13692LR2
- 98. 13692Stair6
- 99. 13692Stair6
- 100. 14312DR2
- 101. 14312FR1
- 102. 14312FR1
- 103. 14312FR1
- 104. 14312FR1
- 105. 14312FR1
- 106. 14312FR3
- 107. 14312FR3
- 108. 14312FR4
- 109. 14312FR4
- 110. 14312LR1
- 111. 14312LR1
- 112. 14312LR1
- 113. 14312Misc1
- 114. 14312Misc1
- 115. 14312Misc1
- 116. 14312Misc1
- 117. 14312Misc1
- 118. 14312Misc1
- 119. 14312Misc1
- 120. 14312Misc1
- 121. 14312Misc1
- 122. 14312Misc1
- 123. 14499FR5
- 124. 14499FR5
- 125. 14499FR5
- 126. 14499FR5
- 127. 15106_DR2
- 128. 15106__DR2
- 129. 15106BR12
- 130. 15106DR3

- 131. 15106Foyer3
- 132. 15106Foyer3
- 133. 15106FR10
- 134. 15642LR2
- 135. 15744LR1
- 136. 15744LR1
- 137. 16697_FR_5
- 138. 16697_FR_5
- 139. 16697LR4
- 140. 16697LR7
- 141. 16697LR7
- 142. 16840_FR2
- 143. 16840_FR2
- 144. 8708A

20. The customized room images created by plaintiff in which plaintiff digitally installed images of defendant's products at defendant's request were the following:

- 1. 10397StairCFull_TajMahal
- 2. 10458 Home_Ofc_Westford
- 3. 10458_HOV_Antelope
- 4. 10458DRE_Garden7320_0001
- 5. 10458LRC_Prairie3
- 6. 10458LRC_Prairie2c
- 7. 10458LRC_Prairie2
- 8. 10458LRC_Prairie2b
- 9. 10458LRC_Prairie4b
- 10. 10458LRC_Prairie4
- 11. 10458LRC_Stonington
- 12. 10458LRC_Putty
- 13. 10458LRC_EnchantedGarden
- 14. 10458LRC_Almond Toast
- 15. 10458_LRE_EGSMCamel
- 16. 10458RE_EGSMC_Camel

17. 10458LRE_EGSMC_Camel_Blue
18. 10458LRE_EGSMC_Green
19. 10458LRE_8784_Ivory
20. 10461BR45_AdelaidTrlls_IvryA
21. 10461BR45_AdelaidTrlls_BlckA
22. 10461BR45_AdelaidTrlls_Gld
23. 10461BR45_AdelaidTrlls_RedA
24. 10461BR45_AdelaidTrlls_Red
25. 10461BR45_AdelaidTrlls_Red2
26. 10461BR45_AdelaidTrlls_Blck
27. 10461LR24_TajMahal
28. 11622LRA_SilverAspen
29. 11622LRA_FloralMajestic
30. 11622LRA_2590_0796AtmnSpin
31. 11622LRA_2590_0796AtmnSpl
32. 11622MiscD_0361_0671_Blue
33. 11622MiscD_Windemere
34. 11622MiscD_Windemere
35. 11622MiscD_Windemere
36. 11622MiscD_Windemere
37. 11622MiscD_Windemere
38. 11622MiscD_Windemere
39. 11775Entr6_2500_2518_PrlBl
40. 11842DR2_GreenMist
41. 12631_FR1_2344_0004prgssns
42. Arbor_Vine_Harlequin
43. 12787_FR4_2327_0646_LtMaple
44. 12787_FR5_BlackSands
45. 12787_FR5_BlackSands_Wide
46. 12787_FR5_BlackSands_Widsp
47. 12787_FR5_BlackSands_Sandsp
48. 12787_FR5_BlackSands_Medp
49. 12787_FR5_BlackSands_Med
50. 12787_FR5_Desert_Sand
51. Nordic_Harlequin

- 52. 12787Foyer4_Manhattan_Class
- 53. 12787Foyer4_Manhattan_Sm
- 54. 12787Fyr4_5300_079_MssGm
- 55. 12787_FR3_20150080
- 56. 12787_FR3_2150_400
- 57. 12787LR10_amsterdam560BL
- 58. 12787LR11_PalazzoSeafnBlue
- 59. 12787LR5_Cheetah
- 60. 12787LR7_8760_0004
- 61. 12787Misc1_CB79_0003Lprd
- 62. 12787Misc3_Aligator
- 63. 12787Misc6_White_Tiger
- 64. 12787Misc6_While_Tiger_Sm
- 65. 12787Misc6_CB79_0005Zebra
- 66. 12787Misc823900128
- 67. 12891FR4_52600004
- 68. 13033MBR2_RC0007Sandstone
- 69. 13033MBR2_RC0007Sandstone2
- 70. 13364_Stair_1_Everest
- 71. 13364_Stair_1_3721_4876
- 72. 13364Stair3_SavannahBurg
- 73. 13364Stair3_SavannahCream
- 74. 13364Stair3_SavannahOnyxL
- 75. 13364Stair3_SavannahOlive
- 76. 13364Stair3_SavannahOnyxD
- 77. 13413_Misc2_SpringBlossoms
- 78. 13413_Misc2_SpringBlossoms_Sm
- 79. 13413Misc1_0105_0002Grn
- 80. 13413_Misc2_BantryGm2
- 81. 13413Staircase1_Roccoco

- 82. 13459_SC1-23002_003A_S_Sage
- 83. 13459_Stres1_0691_Camel
- 84. 13459Staircase2_Provence
- 85. 13692BR1D_2020_0033Cocont
- 86. 13692BR1D_2020_0033Coc4x5
- 87. 13692DR2_Hanover_Red
- 88. 13692Foyer2_0621_2596C_G
- 89. 13692FR1D_1935/5426Natural
- 90. 13692LR2_Newcastle4ct
- 91. 13692LR2_NewcastleGm
- 92. 13692LR2_NewcastleBeige
- 93. 13692LR2_NewcastleRed
- 94. 13692LR2_NewcastleGold
- 95. 13692LR2_DevonshireBlack
- 96. 13692LR2_DevonshireBge
- 97. 13692LR2_DevonshireGold
- 98. 13692LR2_DevonshireGld
- 99. 13692LR2_DevonshireWine
- 100. 13692Stair6_VintageStar
- 101. 13692Stair6_3223-0296
- 102. 1431DR2_Royal Medlln_Ivory
- 103. 14312_FR1_ArborVine7329_0003
- 104. 14312_FR1_Vintage_7323_0002Ivy
- 105. 14312FR18132_2608_Persian_Red
- 106. 14312FR1_Persian_Hazelnut
- 107. 14312FR1_8132-2607_Hazelnut
- 108. 14312FR3_0621_2596
- 109. 14312FR3_8132_2606
- 110. 14312FR4_2415_0070_Wheat
- 111. 14312FR4_2415_0070_Wheat4x5
- 112. 14312LR1_roccoco_burgundy
- 113. 14312LR1_roccoco_black
- 114. 14312LR1_Rococ_Corinthian
- 115. 14312Misc1_Newcastle4ct

- 116. 14312Misc1_NewcastleGrn
- 117. 14312Misc1_NewcastleBeige
- 118. 14312Misc1_NewcastleRed
- 119. 14312Misc1_NewcastleGold
- 120. 14312Misc1_DevonshireBlack
- 121. 14312Misc1_DevonshireGrn
- 122. 14312Misc1_DevonshireGold
- 123. 14312Misc1_DevonshireRed
- 124. 14312Misc1_Devonshire4ct

- 125. 14499FR5_23850121
- 126. 14499FR54540_0172_Straw
- 127. 14499FR54540_0172_Straw2
- 128. 14499FR5_2500_2518_PrlBlk

- 129. 15106_DR2_2288_0644Manilla
- 130. 15106_DR2_8934_0645D

- 131. 15106BR12_Tramor_Red

- 132. 15106DR3_2380_Mirada_0157

- 133. 15106Foyer3_PersianGrdns5820
- 134. 15106Foyer3_PersianGrdns_Beige

- 135. 15106FR10_55400005JayBlue

- 136. 15642LR2_SydneyGold

- 137. 15744LR1_1719_0002_Red
- 138. 15744LR1_UROMOCHAI_Black

- 139. 16697FR5_Damask
- 140. 16697FR5_Damaskcharisma

- 141. 16697LR4_Chanterelle

- 142. 16697LR7_1157_7941_TaosLodge
- 143. 16697LR7_1431607TaosLodge

- 144. 16840_FR2_Wood_Grey
- 145. 16840_FR2_CloudMushroom

- 146. 8708A_palmyra_7315_0004

21. Notwithstanding Couristan's notice and knowledge of Virtual's rights and, contrary to its agreement with Virtual and without Virtual's permission or assent, Couristan has continued to copy, use, disseminate, and digitally manipulate and alter Virtual's copyrighted images.

22. Virtual notified defendant Couristan that it has infringed and is infringing Virtual's copyrights. Notwithstanding such notice, Couristan has continued and will continue to infringe Virtual's copyrights.

23. Couristan's acts of infringement have been, and continue to be willful.

24. The unauthorized and infringing use by Couristan of Virtual's copyrighted materials will unless enjoined, cause irreparable harm, damage and injury to Virtual. In addition, defendant Couristan has unlawfully and wrongfully derived and will continue to derive income and profits from its infringing acts.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff requests judgment against defendant for:

- a. A permanent injunction enjoining defendant and its agents, servants and employees from infringing in any manner plaintiff's copyrights in the subject room scene images and from copying, disseminating, altering or otherwise disposing of any copies thereof following a final decision in this action;
- b. An accounting for payment to plaintiff of all of the following sums:

All gains, profits and advantages derived by defendant as a result of its infringement of plaintiff's copyrights, statutory damages or such damages as the Court shall deem proper and within the provisions of the copyright statutes.
- c. The delivery by defendant, its agents, employees and all holding with, through or under it or anyone acting on its behalf to be impounded of all articles alleged to infringe

the copyrights of plaintiff in the subject room scene images;

- d. Delivery by defendant, its agents, employees and all holding with, through or under or anyone acting on its behalf for destruction following a final decision in this action, of all infringing copies concluding all infringing derivative images, digital files, magnetic tapes and other means for making infringing copies;
- e. Reasonable attorney's fees, interest, and costs of suit; and
- f. Such other and further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

COUNT II

Breach of Contract

- 25. Plaintiff repeats and restates each and every allegation of Paragraphs 1 through 24 as though fully stated herein.
- 26. The continued use by defendant of plaintiff Virtual's products beyond the terms of use agreed upon between the parties constitutes a breach of contract by Couristan.
- 27. Plaintiff Virtual has been and will continue to be damaged by the breach by defendant of the contract between the parties.
- 28. Plaintiff has complied in all respects with its obligations under the contract between the parties.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Virtual demands judgment against defendant Couristan as follows:

- a. Awarding damages in such amount as the Court shall deem appropriate for breach of contract;
- b. Awarding plaintiff interest and costs of suit;
- c. Awarding plaintiff reasonable attorney's fees; and

- d. Awarding such other and further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

MARGULIES WIND, PA
Attorneys for Defendants/Counterclaimants

Dated: January 24, 2011

BY: 
FRANK E. CATALINA